

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 6 January 1953

SUBJECT East German Railroad Repair Shops;
Railroad Employees Living in West Berlin;
Locomotives

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Of the approximately 4,300 locomotives belonging to the DDR Reichsbahn, only some 2,000 are in satisfactory running condition. Some roundhouses have as much as 50 percent of their assigned engines in repair. An example is the Berlin-Schönhauser Roundhouse which has 61 locomotives to service. During the last week in October, 18 of these 61 engines were undergoing major repairs in the engine shops, another 18 were waiting to enter the shops for major repairs, and seven more were tied up in the roundhouse itself for lesser maintenance work. In all engine repair shops (RAW) skilled craftsmen, spare parts, maintenance materials and so on are in short supply. At the moment brakeshoes are so badly needed that three percent of all engines are being kept out of service for this reason alone. Another very critical item is boiler tubing. The quality required for locomotive boilers is made principally by Mannesmann in Western Germany.
2. The repair of freight cars, particularly of boxcars and coalcars, is being held up in all Reichsbahn shops by lack of simple materials. Even such items as screws and nails are at times not available.
3. A recent Reichsbahn Main Office directive states that presently valid permits for employees residing in West Berlin to enter the Soviet Zone to work will not be renewed when they expire. Thereafter, only East Germans will have employment at Reichsbahn installations lying in DDR territory.
4. Two locomotives of model G3 are stationed at Berlin-Karlshorst to be used only at the exclusive direction of East German President Wilhelm Pieck.

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